



*"Making learning an adventure"*  
16th November 2018

*Our value for this half term is Empathy*

Dear Parents/Carers,

### **High Beeches news**

It is wonderful to see the children all dressed up in their PJs today for Children in need. Thank you for your very generous donations, I am pleased to say we have raised an amazing £500 so far. Thanks to Mr George for his "special appearance" at the front of the school first thing this morning!

This week some of our Governors visited to see our children's learning, with a focus on Maths. Our phase leaders have also led very informative maths workshops and their presentations are on the school website. Next week, we are having our Anti bullying week. Learning activities and assemblies will all focus upon anti bullying and acts of kindness to each other.

### **Letter from Nick Gibb- Minister of State for School Standards**

I am pleased, and very proud, to inform you that for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year in a row we have received a letter from Nick Gibb congratulating the children and staff on our success in the year 1 phonics test. 95% of our pupils reached the required standard which puts High Beeches in the top 9% of all Primary schools in the Country.

*"Your success in teaching phonics and early reading so effectively means your pupils are developing a firm foundation in reading, from which they can become increasingly fluent and develop a lifelong love of learning".*

I am sure you join me in congratulating our amazing staff on their continued success.

### **Values**

Our school value is Empathy. Please have a discussion with your child about Empathy and how they can show it in their behaviour towards others.

### **School Development Plan**

It gives me pleasure to share with you our areas of focus for this academic year. We decide upon our focus areas based on a thorough evaluation of the school.



1. To secure excellent teaching, learning and progression in maths to ensure that pupils across the school achieve well.
2. To achieve Values based school accreditation ensuring that VbE is embedded across the school culture and within our whole school community
3. Improve the effectiveness of Early Years provision to ensure that provision moves towards outstanding and all children reach their potential.
4. To strengthen leadership across the school at all levels so that provision impacts positively on pupil achievement

### **Sports Kits**

Please can we ask that all High Beeches sports kit that is borrowed by team members etc is washed and returned to school asap but within two days of use. We had a football match this week and it was a shame that we did not have all the kit for them to use. Thank you.

### **Parking**

More complaints! One of our own parents has commented that the parking in Alzey Gardens is very inconsiderate. We also had a neighbour come into school to complain that parents are sitting outside his house with engines running and the fumes are entering his house. Please park considerately but preferably in our car park in Waldegrave Park. Traffic inspectors are monitoring the situation as neighbours are contacting them directly now. Thank you.

### **Christmas events**

We are aiming to get letters out about Christmas Nativities, Concerts etc asap during the next week so you can plan your diaries. Please watch out for letters either by email or book bags. All future dates/times are at the end of this newsletter for you to check in the meantime.

### **Gym Club**

Ms Ridgway, our Gym Club Teacher, has asked that all orders for gym badges (your child should have received a letter) should be in by Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> November at the latest as she will be ordering that weekend.

### **FoHBS news**

All families should have received the FoHBS Christmas newsletter and one book of raffle tickets by the end of today. Please return the ticket stubs and payment in an envelope and place in the FoHBS box outside the school office plus any unsold tickets by Friday 7<sup>th</sup> December. Thank you for all your support at this busy time of year, it is much appreciated.

### **Pupil achievement**

None this week



## **Headteacher awards**

### **Oak**

*Calvin for working hard on his attitude to learning*

*Ava for showing good Growth mindset in phonics*

### **Chestnut**

*Francesco for improving social skills and understanding of empathy*

*Lexie for showing progress in phonics*

### **Elm**

*Heather for consistently showing her school values and trying her best*

*Isla for always trying her best and being kind and polite*

### **Cedar**

*Emily for pushing herself in maths*

*Taaha for always showing empathy*

### **Hazel**

*Harry for challenging himself and using his Growth mindset*

*Sam for showing empathy and kindness to his friends*

### **Willow**

*Jodie for applying a Growth mindset when choosing tasks*

*Oisin for showing empathy to others in the class*

### **Birch**

*Finn for focusing really well in maths*

*Thomas G for always being friendly and showing empathy*

### **Redwood**

*Shannon for a fantastic attitude to learning all week*

*Tami for Great effort in class with good listening and enthusiastic contributions*

### **Maple**

*James for always having an excellent attitude to learning*

*Ivana for showing empathy and being a kind friend*

### **Pine**

*Emily for showing an excellent attitude to all of her work this week*

*Keira for showing great Growth mindset in both English and Maths this week*

### **Ash**

*Caitlin for showing perseverance in Maths*

*Toni for showing empathy when helping other children*

### **Hawthorn**

*Ben for challenging himself in Maths*

*Dhylan for showing empathy when helping other children*

### **Sycamore**

*Sophie for an excellent attitude to all of her work*

*Samuel for a fantastic attitude to Maths*

*Have a lovely weekend,*

*Best wishes,*  
*S. Lawrence*  
Headteacher

**Diary dates-updates in red**

**20<sup>th</sup> November- open morning for September 2019 starters**

**22<sup>nd</sup> November-Willow and Hazel coffee morning**

**29<sup>th</sup> November-Elm and Cedar coffee morning**

**3<sup>rd</sup> December- Occasional day**

**5<sup>th</sup> December- Harpenden and District Rotary Carols**

**6<sup>th</sup> December-Red and Yellow house KS2 Carol Concert**

**7<sup>th</sup> December- open morning for September 2019 starters**

**9<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Fair**

**10<sup>th</sup> December- Blue and Green house KS2 Carol Concert**

**10<sup>th</sup> December-14<sup>th</sup> December- Book fair**

**11<sup>th</sup> December- Panto trip**

**12<sup>th</sup> December 2.30pm- EYFS nativity**

**13<sup>th</sup> December 9.15- EYFS nativity**

**14<sup>th</sup> December- Christmas Jumper day**

**14<sup>th</sup> December 2.30pm- Year 1 Carols around the tree**

**18<sup>th</sup> December- School Christmas lunch**

**19<sup>th</sup> December 9am- Governor's Cup assembly**

**19<sup>th</sup> December 2pm- Year 2 Nativity**

**20<sup>th</sup> December 2pm- Year 2 Nativity**

**21<sup>st</sup> December 2pm- End of term**

**7<sup>th</sup> January INSET**

**8<sup>th</sup> January- term starts for children**

**17<sup>th</sup> January- Castles workshop at school for year 1**

**21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> January- Viking workshops**

**24<sup>th</sup> January- Roman workshop**

**31<sup>st</sup> January-Fire of London workshop**

**31<sup>st</sup> January- Young voices- more info to follow**

**5<sup>th</sup> February- drama workshop**

**8<sup>th</sup> February- Movie night**

**11<sup>th</sup> February- Year 5 K'nex challenge tbc**

**18<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> February- half term**

**25<sup>th</sup> February- school starts**

**14<sup>th</sup> March- Year 2 trip to Living rainforest tbc**

**15<sup>th</sup> March- Year 5 trip to Duxford**

**20<sup>th</sup> March- Spring Festival**

**22<sup>nd</sup> March-Quiz night FoHBS**

**29<sup>th</sup> March- FoHBS disco**

**1<sup>st</sup> April- Year 3 British museum trip**

**4<sup>th</sup> April- Community Concert**



**5<sup>th</sup> April- Break up for Easter**

**23<sup>rd</sup> April- INSET day**

**24<sup>th</sup> April- Children back**

